

Fort Utah.

A HISTORICAL STUDY OF THE EXPLORATION OF UTAH VALLEY  
AND THE STORY OF FORT UTAH

A Thesis

Presented to the  
Department of History  
Brigham Young University

In Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for the Degree  
Master of Arts

by

Ray C. Colton

1946

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1
II. PHYSIOGEOGRAPHY OF UTAH VALLEY . . . . .	4
Geography . . . . .	4
Geological History. . . . .	5
III. PRE-MORAN. SETTLEMENT OF UTAH VALLEY. . . . .	10
Each Pathfinder Left His Mark On Utah Valley. . .	10
Escalante and Dominguez . . . . .	11
Spanish-Mexican Traders . . . . .	16
Fur Trappers and Traders. . . . .	17
Where Provo Got Its Name. . . . .	21
Fremont in Utah Valley. . . . .	22
Bridger's Report of Utah Valley . . . . .	25
IV. INDIANS OF UTAH VALLEY . . . . .	27
Archaeological and Ethnological Background . . . .	27
Escalante with the Timpanogotais. . . . .	29
Fur Trappers and the Ute Indians. . . . .	31
Ute Indians Contemporary with the Morans . . . .	32
V. MORAN SETTLEMENT OF UTAH VALLEY. . . . .	40
Explorations During 1847. . . . .	40
Activities in Utah Valley During 1848	
and the Early Part of 1849. . . . .	42
Campaign at Little Creek. . . . .	45
Some Reasons for the Founding of Fort Utah. . . .	49

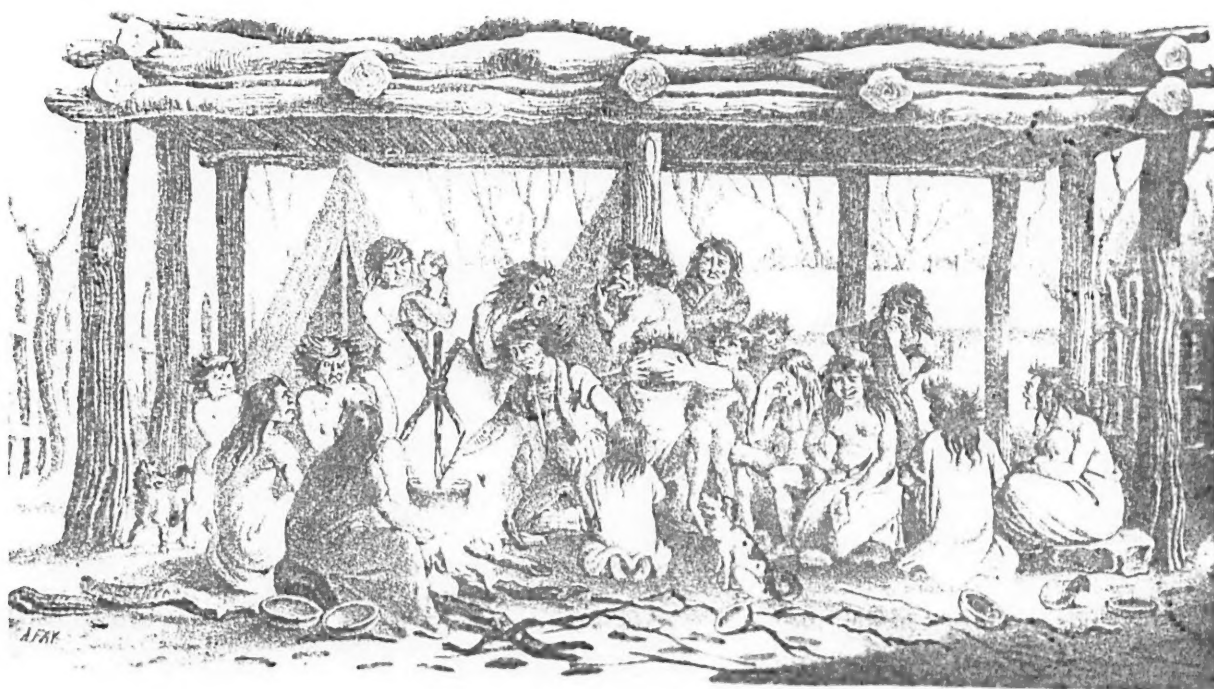
# CHAPTER

PAGES

VI. THE FOUNDED OF FORT UTAH . . . . .	52
Preparation in Salt Lake City. . . . .	52
Trip to the Timpanogos or Provo River. . . . .	54
When Was Fort Utah Settled. . . . .	60
Building of Fort Utah on its First Site. . . . .	63
The Families are Brought to the Fort . . . . .	68
VII. LIFE IN FORT UTAH ON ITS FIRST SITE . . . . .	72
Agricultural Developments in the New Colony. . . . .	72
Civil and Military Activities During 1849. . . . .	74
Spiritual, Educational and Recreational Functions. . . . .	77
Family Life in Fort Utah . . . . .	79
Infant Industries Introduced in the Colony . . . . .	83
Cannon Explodes, Kills Dayton, Injures Dean. . . . .	85
Church Authorities Visit; Town Site Selected . . . . .	87
Fort Utah a Base for Exploration and Colonization. . . . .	90
VIII. WAR CLOUDS GATHER AT FORT UTAH. . . . .	94
Provo River, an Indian Rendezvous. . . . .	94
Skirmish between Little Chief and Menship. . . . .	94
Indian Relations during the Spring and . . . . .	
Summer of 1849 . . . . .	96
"Old Bishop" murdered. . . . .	100
Open Warfare Impending . . . . .	101
Messengers Dispatched to Governor Young. . . . .	105
Captain Howard Stensbury Consulted . . . . .	107
Expeditionary Force Rushed to Fort Utah. . . . .	109

CHAPTER	PAGE
IX. THE BATTLE ON THE PROVO . . . . .	112
War Council Held . . . . .	112
A Reconnoiter of the Enemy . . . . .	112
Troops Take Their Positions; Last Minute	
Truce Bought . . . . .	114
First Day's Assault. . . . .	115
The Second Day's Fight; A Turning Point. . . . .	119
One Dead and Eighteen Wounded. . . . .	124
Sunday a Day of Rest; Indian Encampment Deserted . .	126
Troops Sent to Intercept the Retreating Indians. . .	127
Peace Parley Held; Troops Return to Salt Lake City .	132
X. FORT UTAH ON ITS SECOND SITE. . . . .	136
This Thesis Restricted to the Story of Fort Utah . .	136
Fort Utah Moved to its Second Site . . . . .	137
Utah County Created; Provo City Laid Out . . . . .	139
Indian Associations, Spring and Early Summer 1850. .	142
Walker Threatens Massacre; Cowiette Counters . . . .	146
Ecclesiastical and Intellectual Progress . . . . .	148
Civil Development; Legal and Ecclesiastical Courts .	151
Industrial Expansion . . . . .	153
Population Increased; Colonists Moved out of Fort. .	154


CHAPTER	PAGE
XI. FORT UTAH'S PART IN LATER INDIAN DEFEATS . . . . .	158
Fort Utah's military base. . . . .	158
A Parent Colony to Utah County Towns . . . . .	159
Fort Utah militia on reconnoitering expeditions. . . . .	159
Incidents leading to the Walker War. . . . .	161
Fort Utah's Part in the Walker War . . . . .	165
Provo Scene of Peace Parley; Weeks boys murdered . . . . .	168
Irradi Wall built around Provo City . . . . .	169
Tintic War . . . . .	172
Provo Militia, 1856 to the end of the Black Hawk War. . . . .	175
XII. FORT UTAH MEMORIALIZED. . . . .	181
BIBLIOGRAPHY. . . . .	184



Indian Prisoners at Fort Utah from drawing in Stansbury's  
"Valley of the Great Salt Lake"



Chief Elk and his Squaw  
from drawing in Stansbury's  
"Valley of the Great Salt Lake"

S Day 1st High  
 Tuills  
 White  
 Stars  
 2 Horns  

 Ancient Mound  
 Blk  
 G Bk  
 Ewing N3  
 D B H  
 Ice  
 Duff  
 Ghot  
 Connor  
 Glat  
 Ben  
 Pace  
 Hunt  
 Stoddard  
 Whit

[illegible]